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National



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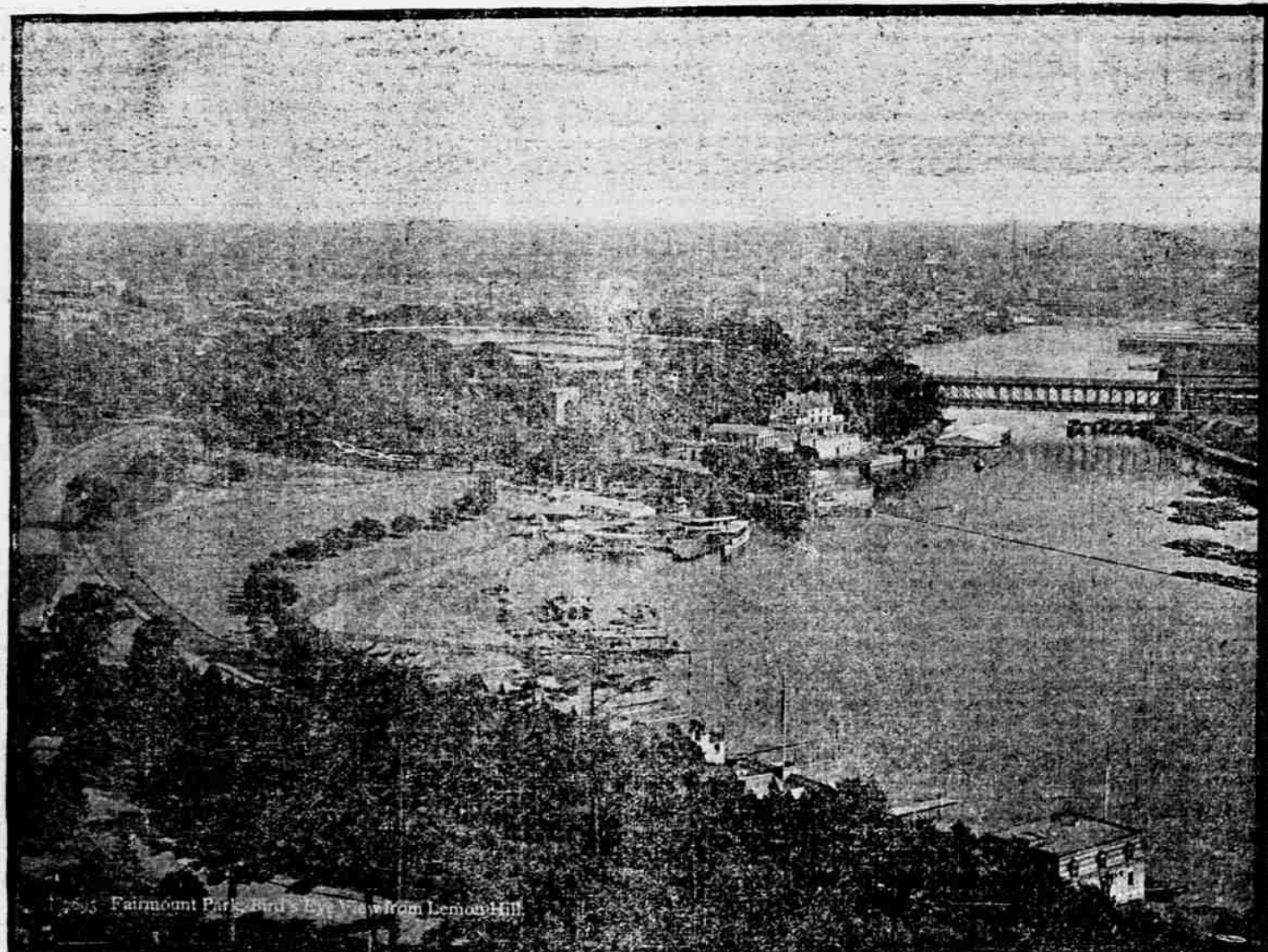
"To care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphan."

ESTABLISHED 1877—NEW SERIES.

WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1899.

VOL. XVIII—NO. 48—WHOLE NO. 943.

BIRD'S-EYE VIEWS OF PHILADELPHIA.



VIEW FROM OBSERVATORY TOWER, LEMON HILL.



VIEW NORTHEAST FROM STATE HOUSE.

ACTING COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S ADDRESS.

A Very Able Review of All Matters of General Interest to the Order.

The Past, Present and Future of the Grand Army of the Republic—The Succession to the Commander-in-Chiefship—The Vexed Pension Question—Preference for Veterans—Sons of Veterans—Woman's Relief Corps, etc.

After a lapse of 23 years we again "Pitch our Tents" and "Light our Camp Fires" within the gates of this historic old city of Philadelphia, and to-day assemble in the capacity of the 33d National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic. As we enter within the walls of this loyal city, well named the "birthplace of our Republic," we are deeply impressed with the precious memories of the early history of our country which cluster around it. We are upon historic ground, made sacred by the blood and sacrifices of our patriotic forefathers in the establishment of this country as a free and independent Nation.

But a few blocks removed, stands the old Independence Hall, in the main, as it stood upon that glorious Fourth of July, 1776, when within its portals 56 of the most devoted and fearless advocates of freedom and liberty the world has ever known bravely fixed their names to that immortal document that forever established this Nation as the "land of the free" and "home of the brave."

Within whose walls also were held sessions of the Continental Congress, from which flowed the patriotic eloquence of a Patrick Henry, sending terror to Britain's band and arousing the devoted patriots of the Colonies to greater activity and daring, the thundering echoes of which have resounded down through the decades, as an inspiration, ever prompting America's sons to deeds of valor and heroism in defense of those God-given rights and privileges of freedom and liberty.

There, also, hangs the old "Liberty Bell," dear to the heart of every American, (priceless in value), which pealed forth in joyful tones to the colonies, reverberating throughout the inhabited world, that the act was performed which made America's soil from thence, henceforth, and forever free. In this city our glorious old banner, the Stars and Stripes, was first given to the breezes of heaven as the symbol of justice, freedom, and equal rights.

Surely, if Philadelphia is not the "cradle of liberty," she is the "MOTHER OF LIBERTY," for she it was who "rocked the cradle" of the infant Nation and nourished it to become one of the foremost among the Nations of the world. In close proximity are to be found Valley Forge, Trenton, N. J., Germantown—all of Revolutionary fame. I have mentioned but few of the many features of interest to be found here directly connected with the early history of our country. It is most fitting that this great patriotic organization, the Grand Army of the Republic, should meet upon this sacred spot.

We hold our 33d National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic within the borders of this great Commonwealth, Pennsylvania, whose varied resources have added so much to the wealth of the Nation, and whose unwavering loyalty and devotion to her country's best interests have ever placed her in the front rank of the great States of the Union. More than 300,000 of her loyal sons answered the call to arms in '61-'65, and did valiant and heroic service in the preservation of the Union.

Within her borders is located the greatest battlefield of the world, where hundreds of granite monuments stand, telling of American valor and heroism on the bloody field of Gettysburg; where, led by Pennsylvania's noble sons, Meade, Hancock, and Reynolds, secession and rebellion were given a decisive blow which hurled them back in defeat, with broken columns, dismayed and disheartened, with thinned ranks, but at a heavy cost; yet it opened the way for final triumph and made possible the matchless and unparalleled victories that followed, the glories of which reached their culmination at Appomattox.

Truly, the men who compose the Grand Army of the Republic have lived and acted in a most eventful and important period of the world's history. The flag that we followed, and beneath whose folds we fought, and which we brought back in triumph from four years of bloody war, is today the grandest banner that floats o'er land or sea. We made it the banner of liberty and Union; the "Yank" and "Johnny" of the '60's and their sons in 1898 made it also the banner of humanity.

The patriotism taught and exemplified by the Grand Army of the Republic has already borne rich fruit, which we, who survive, enjoy, and induce our people generally to view with more pleasure and interest the coming together of our organization in Annual Reunion.

We meet to-day with hearts filled with gratitude to our Heavenly Father, that the lives of so many of our comrades have been spared to meet once more, under such favorable auspices, in this beautiful "City of Brotherly Love," that is according us a welcome and tendering a hospitality never surpassed.

DEATH OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF SEXTON.

When one year ago I was elected and assumed the duties of the office of Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, little did I think that as such I would be called upon to "perform the duties" and discharge the obligations of the office of Commander-in-Chief of this great organization, and stand before the 33d National Encampment to present a report as Senior Vice and Acting Commander-in-Chief. It is the first time in the history of our Order that such duties have ever fallen upon that officer, which came through the sad and unprecedented event of the death of our lamented Commander-in-Chief, Col. James A. Sexton, which occurred upon Sunday, Feb. 5, 1899, in Washington, while faithfully serving upon an important mission to which he had been appointed last September by the President of the United States, the duties of which were about completed at the time of his death. His illness was of comparatively short duration, and was serious from the first, foregoing sad results.

Through the kindness of Comrade Hendricks, then Department Commander of the District of Columbia, I was frequently advised as to the condition of the Commander-in-Chief. The last information received prior to the announcement of his death was to the effect that symptoms were more favorable, and strong hopes indulged in that he would recover. These encouraging words were followed the next day by the announcement of his death, the sad intelligence reaching me at 1 o'clock p. m., Sunday, Feb. 5. I immediately received condolence to family, and assumed the duties of the office of Commander-in-Chief, officially announcing the death of our beloved Commander-in-Chief, and directing that Department and Post Headquarters and Charters, National, Department, and Post colors all be appropriately draped, and that all National, Department, and Post officers wear the badge of mourning for 60 days from date of his death. Announcing, also, time and place of interment, and charging the Department Commander of Illinois with the duty of furnishing proper funeral escort.

I officially attended the funeral obsequies held at Memorial Hall, Chicago, on Feb. 8, where, with the assistance of Department Commander Comrade J. C. Black, Columbia Post, and comrades of other

Posts present, the funeral ceremonies, in accordance with our ritual, were properly and appropriately performed.

The Department of Illinois, under the direction of Commander Black (Columbia Post having immediate charge), had most fittingly and elaborately made all necessary arrangements for the solemn exercises. The floral tributes were elegant, profuse, and in harmony with the tender sympathies and impressiveness of the sorrowful occasion.

On behalf of the National officers and staff, the Executive Committee provided a floral design, and took action, expressive of their high esteem of the noble dead, with fraternal sympathy for the bereaved family in a beautifully worded tribute, which was read by Comrade Sterritt of the Committee.

Those with tender loving words and sorrowing hearts, the last sad rites were performed with ceremonies and tributes befitting his high station in life, our Commander-in-Chief, Col. James A. Sexton, was laid to rest in the bosom of the city he loved and had served so well.

PROVIDING A SUCCESSOR.

The office of Commander-in-Chief then being without an incumbent, and there being no clearly defined provision in the Rules and Regulations as to the exact "status" of the position or action under the unprecedented circumstances to be taken by the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, no precedent having been established bearing directly upon the existing conditions as presented, and finding a diversity of opinion upon the question among many of the prominent and leading members of the Order as to the proper action that should be taken in the premises, a "statement of facts" was submitted to the Judge-Advocate-General, Hon. Eli Torrence, with the request for an opinion, which was promptly rendered, and was to the effect that there was a "vacancy" caused by the death of Col. James A. Sexton in the office of Commander-in-Chief; that the sole power to fill such vacancy rested in the National Council of Administration; that the Executive Committee of the National Council of Administration, by virtue of the authority conferred upon it by the action taken at the 11th National Encampment, held at Providence, R. I., had the power delegated to it to act in the matter for the full Council of Administration.

After giving the question much consideration, and consulting with high authorities upon Grand Army law, I did not fully coincide with the opinion of the Judge-Advocate-General. The position occupied by your Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief was one of a most delicate nature. The great expense involved in calling together the entire National Council of Administration, in whom I believed the sole power was invested (if there was in fact a vacancy), was somewhat appalling, and caused serious doubts as to whether such action would meet with the approval of the National Encampment, unless it could be clearly shown that it was absolutely necessary for the preservation of the life and continued prosperous and healthy existence of the organization. Such a condition I did not believe existed. Therefore, in view of lack of unanimity of opinion upon the question, and with an earnest desire that no action should be taken that would cause serious disturbance or discord within our ranks, with the best interests of our organization in view, and at the same time desiring that only such action might be taken as would be in strict conformity to the Rules and Regulations, with a feeling that there was no emergency requiring hasty action, there being no limit fixed as to time such action must be taken—with an honest belief that, as a mark of respect to the memory of our late Commander-in-Chief, no action whatever should be taken before the expiration of the time fixed for "official mourning" in General Order No. 5—I deemed it proper and advisable to allow the matter to rest for a time. However, at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Administration, held in Philadelphia on April 12, the question was brought up and discussed, and as a result the following resolution was passed:

"Whereas for the first time in the history of the Grand Army of the Republic the office of Commander-in-Chief has died while in office; Therefore, Be it

Resolved, That as a mark of respect to the memory of James A. Sexton, late Commander-in-Chief, the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief shall continue to perform the duties of Commander-in-Chief, and the office of Commander-in-Chief shall remain without an incumbent until the meeting of the 33d National Encampment."

Believing, under the peculiar conditions existing, this to be a wise and judicious solution of the question, I fully and cheerfully concurred, and at once took up the work with renewed vigor, realizing fully the responsibility thus imposed, with a determination to bring my best efforts and abilities, together with deepest devotion, to the performance of the sacred duties thus devolving upon me. I have tried honestly, faithfully and conscientiously to administer his affairs, and perform all the duties incumbent upon the office as they presented themselves to me.

WORK OF THE YEAR.

I have devoted much time to the work, have visited many Posts and Reunions. During the month of May, officially visited the Department Encampments of Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana; during the month of June, the Encampment of Ohio. Everywhere I have found the membership active, enthusiastic and in a healthy condition, and have been received most cordially, and been given a comrade's hearty greeting and welcome. In this work I have been most efficiently assisted by Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief Rose, who has cheerfully responded to every call and officially visited many of the Eastern Departments it was not possible for me to reach. Comrade Rose has ably assisted and sustained me in all matters pertaining to the work.

MEMBERSHIP.

Members in good standing June 30, 1898.....	305,603
Gain by transfer.....	7,542
" " Reinstatement.....	12,257
" " from Delinquent Reports.....	4,715
Total gain.....	24,514
Aggregate.....	333,836
Loss by death.....	7,994
" " Discharge.....	7,054
" " Transfer.....	3,866
" " Dishonorable Discharge.....	22,952
" " Delinquent Reports.....	107
" " Surrender.....	9,366
" " Charter.....	513
Total loss.....	45,855
Members remaining in good standing June 30, 1899.....	287,981

FINANCES.

I herewith submit a general statement of the finances with all bills paid up to date. For itemized statement see Quartermaster General's Report.

Cash.	Dr.
Received from Charles Burrows, Quartermaster General, Oct. 7, 1898.....	\$1,790.29
General Fund.....	1,465.85
Southern Memorial Fund.....	5,777.69
Grant Monument Fund.....	226.65
Sherman Memorial Fund.....	\$9,260.48
Received from Jas. A. Sexton, Commander-in-Chief, contribution from W.R.C., April 11, 1899.....	\$2,900.00
Rec'd from Sale of Mem. Fund April 11, 1899.....	\$1.99
Rec'd from Trans. Mem. Fund April 11, 1899.....	\$6.67
Rec'd Int. Sherman Memorial Fund April 11, 1899.....	\$4.00
Rec'd Int. Contribution W.R.C., April 11, 1899.....	\$0.00
Rec'd Int. Bonds to July 1, 1899.....	\$40.00
Rec'd from Sale of Supplies.....	\$1,146.93
Rec'd from Per Capita Tax.....	\$7,357.00
Rec'd from Contributions for Mem. Day, 1899.....	\$1,759.21
Total.....	\$26,308.68

The interest on the different funds have been credited to their respective funds.

Expenditures.	Cr.
For Memorial Day, 1899.....	\$1,306.63
For Supplies.....	4,065.88
For traveling expenses.....	1,398.68
For salaries.....	3,301.33
For postage, stationery and credentials.....	4,534.31
Total balance on hand.....	\$14,636.22
Total.....	\$11,672.45

(Credited to funds indicated.)

Cash General Fund.....	\$1,097.62
" Grant Monument Fund.....	5,864.36
" Sherman Memorial Fund.....	230.05
" Southern Memorial Fund.....	1,940.42
" Contribution on Fund W.R.C.....	2,030.00
Total cash.....	\$11,672.45
Vouchers on hand (cost).....	1,099.94
Gun metal in hands of J. K. Davidson.....	235.20
Lithograph stones.....	20.00
Electrotype.....	9.00
Total.....	\$13,040.59

Investments.

United States Bonds 4 per cent. due 1907, par value.....	\$16,000.00
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IN MEMORIAM.

Another year in the life of the Grand Army of the Republic has been registered, and with its close there comes to us, as we pause to take a retrospective view of the past before entering upon the threshold of the new year, the sad realization that our ranks are being rapidly diminished by death. Many who answered the roll-call one year ago have received their final discharge and passed over to join the "silent majority."

A large proportion of our membership is rapidly entering the shadows of the evening of life, and each recurring year will witness a more rapid decrease in our numbers. During the past year we have lost by death three of whom were present or past National officers.

Comrade James A. Sexton, elected one year ago to the Commander-in-Chiefship, died Feb. 5, 1899. In his death the Grand Army loses one of its most honored, loyal, active members. He was born Jan. 5, 1844, entered the service of his country April 19, 1861, and served continuously until the close of the war. His record as a soldier was a proud and brilliant one, as was also his record as a citizen, having filled many positions of public trust and responsibility with fidelity and honor. As a member of the Grand Army of the Republic he was ever faithful in the performance of all the duties incumbent upon him. He loved the Grand Army of the Republic, and by his warm-hearted, genial comradeship endeared himself to all.

Comrade Rev. Thomas C. Warner, Past Chaplain-in-Chief, G.A.R., died at his home in Knoxville, Tenn., July 19, 1899. Comrade Warner enlisted in the service June 28, 1861, at the age of 18, serving with his command until March 25, 1863, when he was discharged on account of a severe wound received at the battle of Fredericksburg. He was a brave soldier and excellent citizen, an enthusiastic member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He was elected to the position of Chaplain-in-Chief at the 20th National Encampment, which position he filled with much honor. In his chosen profession he was a minister of recognized ability and power. As a citizen he was intensely loyal in defense of those principles for which he had fought; as a comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic he was active and devoted, an eloquent speaker, was always in demand at the camp fire, never failing to delight the old veterans and leave lasting impressions of true patriotism in the minds of his audience. He was a generous, noble-hearted comrade, a true friend, and fearless in his defense of the right under all circumstances.

Comrade George K. Mallory died at Parkersburg, W. Va., July 14, 1899. He was a member of the National Council of Administration, serving the present year. He was a good soldier and citizen, a true comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic.

(Continued on second page.)

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S REPORT.

A Small Decrease in Number of Posts and Membership.

Recapitulation by Departments, with Gains and Losses—Greatest Loss in Ohio. Gains in Arizona, Delaware, Iowa, Kansas, North Dakota, Utah and Washington and Alaska—Recommendations.

HEADQUARTERS GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL, INDEPENDENCE HALL, PHILADELPHIA, PA., Aug. 24, 1899.

W. C. JOHNSON, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, commanding the Grand Army of the Republic.

COMRADE: In compliance with the requirements of the Rules and Regulations, I have the honor to submit herewith the report of the Adjutant-General from Sept. 9, 1898, to date.

MEMBERSHIP.

The total membership of the Grand Army of the Republic in good standing June 30, 1898, was 7,213 Posts with a membership of 305,603; on Dec. 31, 1898, 7,178 Posts with a membership of 298,747; and on June 30, 1899, 6,905 Posts with a membership of 287,981. The gains and losses for the 12 months ending June 30, 1899, are as follows:

RECAPITULATION.

Members in good standing June 30, 1898.....	305,603
Gain by muster.....	7,542
Loss by death.....	7,994
Gain by reinstatement.....	12,257
Gain from delinquent reports.....	4,715
Total gain.....	24,514
Aggregate.....	333,836
Loss by death.....	7,994
Loss by honorable discharge.....	1,067
Loss by transfer.....	3,866
Loss by suspension.....	22,952
Loss by dishonorable discharge.....	107
Loss by delinquent reports.....	9,366
Loss by surrender of charter.....	513
Total loss.....	45,855
Members in good standing June 30, 1899.....	287,981

Members remaining suspended June 30, 1899..... 35,366
Total borne on rolls..... 323,347
Reports received from Departments show that 7,828 members were dropped from rolls, having been previously suspended.
Dropped from rolls six months ending Dec. 31, 1898..... 3,658
Dropped from rolls six months ending June 30, 1899..... 4,170
Total for the year..... 7,828

MEMBERSHIP SINCE 1878.

1878.....	31,016
1879.....	44,752
1880.....	60,634
1881.....	55,856
1882.....	134,701
1883.....	215,446
1884.....	273,168
1885.....	294,787
1886.....	323,571
1887.....	355,916
1888.....	372,949
1889.....	397,074
1890.....	409,459
1891.....	407,781
1892.....	399,880
1893.....	397,223
1894.....	389,093
1895.....	357,639
1896.....	340,610
1897.....	319,456
1898.....	305,603
1899.....	287,981

LOSS BY DEATH.

For year ending—	Per cent.
March 31, 1898.....	3,020 0.95
" 31, 1897.....	3,406 0.93
" 31, 1896.....	4,433 1.18
June 30, 1895.....	4,686 1.18
" 30, 1894.....	5,476 1.33
" 30, 1893.....	5,965 1.46
" 30, 1892.....	6,404 1.61
" 30, 1891.....	7,002 1.78
" 30, 1890.....	7,283 1.97
" 30, 1889.....	7,308 2.06
" 30, 1888.....	7,293 2.21
" 30, 1887.....	7,515 2.35
" 30, 1886.....	7,383 2.41
" 30, 1885.....	7,994 2.78

EXPENDED IN RELIEF.

For six months ending—	\$76,343 23
Dec. 31, 1898.....	84,612 39
June 30, 1899.....	\$160,955 64

The year 1890 was the high-water mark in membership—469,489. Every year since then has shown a decrease, and it is not likely that any year in the future will show a gain over losses, although enough comrades and shipmates of the army and navy of the civil war period yet remain to make such a thing possible. Each year shows an increasing death rate among the membership. Surely the Grand Army of the Republic is marching into the shadows. How important, therefore, that with each recurring year we apply to the administration of the affairs of the Order, the most practical and business-like principles and methods. One year ago I reported a decrease of \$346.33 in per capita tax received, as compared with the previous year, and said then the decrease would be greater in amount each year. This year there is a decrease of \$431.41 over last year; in two years, \$777.74. The decrease in the sale of supplies over the year ending June 30, 1898, is \$2,242.22.

For the information of all concerned, I have compiled a table making comparison between the receipts and expenditures for the last 10 years. This table shows the yearly decrease in the revenues of National Headquarters. A study of the table will show very clearly the necessity of a readjustment of the expenses of National Headquarters. For the years 1898 and 1899 the Adjutant-General has served without salary; the Quartermaster-General served without salary in 1898.

It is not to be expected that the Adjutant-General will serve without compensation every year, nor should the fact that a comrade has done so for the past two years establish a precedent. The matter should be, and no doubt will be, adjusted by the Council of Administration. When the position of Custodian of Records was created, the salary was fixed at \$600 per year. The Quartermaster-General then had in his charge all supplies and filled all requisitions. During the last year the Custodian of Records has done this work, as per direction of the National Encampment, and probably under the same direction will continue to perform this labor. This arrangement decreases the work and duties of the Quartermaster-General very materially. No change, however, has been made in the salary of this officer; but whether this be done or not, the pay of the Custodian of Records should be somewhat increased for additional labor and responsibility imposed. Comrade Holcomb, the Custodian of Records, is a most efficient and trustworthy officer.

During the last two years the stenographer at Headquarters has been paid \$416. He ought to receive at least \$500. In former years \$50 per month has been paid. A new item of expense is the salary of Assistant Adjutant-General, who, under Commander-in-Chief Sexton, received \$100 per month, and under Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Johnson \$75 per month. This officer has been placed on duty by and with the Commander-in-Chief, and in the work he does lessens to some extent the correspondence of the Adjutant-General.

During the last two years no rent has been paid for Headquarters, and with Headquarters permanently located in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, through the courtesy of the City Council of Philadelphia, this item of expense can be discontinued, as well as the annual expense of moving Headquarters, records and furniture. I have no recommendations to

(Continued on second page.)